

## Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments

Boulder County      City and County of Broomfield      Jefferson County  
City of Arvada      City of Boulder      City of Westminster      Town of Superior

### Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 29, 2003

8:40 - 10:30 a.m.

Mt. Evans Room in the Terminal Building  
Jefferson County Airport, Broomfield

**Board members in attendance:** Hank Stovall (Director, Broomfield), Tom Brunner (Alternate, Broomfield), Mike Bartleson (Alternate, Broomfield), Lorraine Anderson (Director, Arvada), Clark Johnson (Alternate, Arvada), Nanette Neelan (Alternate, Jefferson County), Karen Imbierowicz (Director, Superior), Devin Granbery (Alternate, Superior), Paul Danish (Director, Boulder County), Jane Uitti (Alternate, Boulder County), Sam Dixon (Director, Westminster), Ron Hellbusch (Alternate, Westminster), Lisa Morzel (Director, City of Boulder).

**Coalition staff members and consultants in attendance:** David Abelson (Executive Director), Kimberly Chleboun (Program Manager), Melissa Anderson (Technical Program Manager), Barb Vander Wall (Seter & Vander Wall, P.C.).

**Members of the Public:** Dave Shelton (Kaiser-Hill), John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill), Len Martinez (Kaiser-Hill), John Rampe (DOE), Joe Legare (DOE), Karen Lutz (DOE), Laurie Shannon (USFWS), Mark Sattelberg (USFWS), Dean Rundle (USFWS), Rob Henneke (EPA), Gary Kleeman (EPA), Steve Gunderson (CDPHE), Marion Galant (CDPHE), Patricia Rice (RFCAB), Janel Rock (Broomfield), Gary Brosz (Broomfield), Bob Nelson (Golden), Kristi Pollard (Senator Allard), Bobby McConnell (Senator Allard), Kim Cadena (Rep. Beauprez), Phil Cruz (RFSOIU #1), Dan Chesshir (RFSOIU #1), C.A. Miller (USWALU 8031), Roman Kohler (Rocky Flats Homesteaders), Steve Davis (RFCWM).

### Convene/Agenda Review

Chairman Lorraine Anderson convened the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

### Business Items

**1) Motion to Approve Consent Agenda -** Hank Stovall motioned to approve the consent agenda. Lisa Morzell seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 (Jefferson County was not yet in attendance).

**2) Executive Director's Report -** David Abelson reported the following items:

- There was a release in Building 707 on September 10<sup>th</sup> into which Kaiser-Hill and DOE are still conducting an investigation. Workers cut a duct which shut down the ventilation in one area of

**ADMIN RECORD**

the building and plutonium dust was released. Air monitors went off, but dust was spread into a corridor where workers were not wearing respirators. Workers were tested for uptakes, but results are not back yet.

- The Coalition sent a letter to the Colorado Historical Society on September 16<sup>th</sup> supporting a grant request from the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum for its oral history project.
- Tim Rehder, the RFCA Coordinator for EPA, has been assigned to a three-month detail in the Denver office. His current replacement is Gary Kleeman.
- David will be attending the ECA Conference next week.
- The State and DOE are in conversations about enforcement of long-term stewardship post-closure. The RFCA Principals met and are putting together a negotiating strategy for stewardship issues, some local and some at Headquarters. These negotiations are an important step forward and will compliment John Rampe's work on the Long-Term Stewardship Strategy.
- Each government is reviewing the Coalition's revised IGA for approval by the end of October.
- The Coalition will begin reviewing the draft FY04 budget at the November meeting, but David will have to it to the Board for initial review by October 15<sup>th</sup> in accordance with State law.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

### **Kaiser-Hill Workforce Transition**

Len Martinez (Kaiser-Hill) provided the Board with an update on Site workforce transition. He stated the Career Transition Center (CTC) is fully operational and used extensively by employees who have received their notice or have already left the Site. Len provided the following numbers:

- Over 2,700 workers have participated in the Transition Orientation Workshops.
- Over 850 workers are currently using CTC services.
- 38 people are participating in retirement/new business workshops.
- Over 65 individuals are taking advantage of the Entrepreneurial Program.
- Over 145 candidate resumes have been posted to KHeccareer.com.
- Over 35 employers are actively searching resumes, and over 160 job openings have been posted to KHeccareer.com.
- Kaiser-Hill is currently in partnerships with eight companies, who are identified as Community Partners on the web page.

Another agreement Kaiser-Hill has worked out includes the Colorado Building and Trades Union accepting Rocky Flats steelworkers when qualified. A steelworker can be laid off, but then introduced into the trades arena and come back to the Site as an asbestos or iron worker.

Len explained that Kaiser-Hill is also reaching out to workers through a wide range of communication vehicles, including the Site newspaper, personal letters, weekly meetings with Kaiser-Hill President, Alan Parker, posters, the web page, and site-wide emails and announcements. Kaiser-Hill is also embarking on an aggressive job development effort to elevate the Rocky Flats workforce in the job

market by meeting with a wide-range of organizations and establishing key partnerships with businesses and economic development organizations. Len provided the example of their new alliance with the University of Colorado Health Science Center and special training programs to assist the workforce for possible transition to the biotech/bioscience industry.

Additionally, Len described how elected officials have supported the Rocky Flats workforce by providing letters of support, including a letter from Governor Bill Owens to 39 targeted companies. Kaiser-Hill has also partnered with the Denver News Agency on several job fairs and a reverse ad advertising the Site workforce, which will occur eight to ten times in the Denver Post during the next 24 months. The first ad will run Sunday, October 5, 2003, and approximately 140 workers will be highlighted. The ads will be updated each time they run. He said they are trying to strike a balance between keeping skilled workers and helping them find jobs; if a worker is not ready to leave yet, Kaiser-Hill will try to help negotiate a start date with the future employer.

Jane Utti asked if Kaiser-Hill is working with local governments, including the Boulder County workforce office. Len responded affirmatively, and said they are also working with the Department of Labor and each city on tuition and training assistance since some employees are not eligible for reimbursement of these programs. Hank Stovall asked about the union numbers laid off so far. Len responded that layoffs through October 1, 2003 total 650, consisting of approximately 250 hourly steelworkers, 80 guards, and 320 salaried workers. Hank asked if there was any way to measure how many of these workers had found jobs. Len said their numbers are not accurate because some people don't report back, but 205 out of the 650 have retired, been prepped for a position, or have been placed. Hank asked if any workers have taken advantage of transfers to other weapons complex sites such as Los Alamos. Len replied that approximately 100 workers had found work at other sites, although they did not necessarily qualify as transfers. A large number of these workers were guards. Hank advised Len to also contact the Broomfield workforce office. Lisa Morzel asked if moving costs were paid for transfers. Len explained that it depends on the employee's category. Many sites will not pay relocations costs for hourly workers, but if the worker qualifies as a cold war warrior (employed prior to September 1991) then they are eligible for workforce transition benefits up to \$4000.

Tom Brunner asked if the issue of allowing DOE employees to use the CTC had been resolved. Len said DOE is providing funding for their employees to use the services, but the issue had been over Kaiser-Hill waiting to receive a list of eligible employees from DOE, which has now been resolved. Also, the CTC was restricted to employees who had received notice or already left the Site. However, after the first hourly layoff scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>, the CTC will be opened up for all hourly workers to use. David Abelson referred to the FY04 and 05 cuts in funding to the Office of Worker and Community Transition, and asked if Kaiser-Hill has enough money to properly and fully implement these transition programs. Len responded that the request for FY04 will not be enough even if it were to be fully funded. The Site calculated the request early, assuming only 50% of the workforce would use the resources. However, they are seeing up to 80% use, thus they may need assistance to keep the programs funded and running. David noted that the funding to these programs are being cut nationwide just as sites are closing and need the funding the most. Lorraine suggested bringing this subject up at the ECA conference the following week. Jane asked about support from the Congressional delegation, and David said the programs had received letters of support from the House and Senate, but still had little impact due to the current economic situation and budget demands.

### **Rocky Flats Cold War Museum**

Steve Davis reviewed the Rocky Flats Cold War Museum's accomplishments since he last met with the Board in January:

- The Museum's feasibility study was completed after taking a conservative look at demographics and operating costs. The study found that the Museum would be sustainable as long as they do not have to pay a mortgage.
- The Museum received a grant from the Colorado Historical Society to begin the Lindsay Ranch assessment and determine what is possible to preserve.
- The Museum launched a comprehensive oral history project, in collaboration with the Maria Rogers Oral History Program of Boulder's Carnegie Library, and has submitted a proposal to the Colorado Historical Society for \$40,000 in funding. (For perspective, the Atomic Testing Museum received \$600,000 for a similar project.)
- Kaiser-Hill has provided matching funds for the oral histories proposal and other initiatives, including contracting Pat Buffer, Kaiser-Hill's ad-hoc Rocky Flats historian.
- The Museum adopted a formal logo and launched a web site at: [www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org](http://www.rockyflatscoldwarmuseum.org).
- The Museum has continued to meet with the Colorado Congressional delegates to position a request for the Museum to be included in the federal FY05 budget.
- The Museum has met with Gene Schmitt (DOE) about recognizing the Museum as the official Rocky Flats museum cited in the refuge legislation. Gene agrees about this official designation and advised Steve that much of the Museum's feasibility study will form the core of the report the Secretary of Energy is required to submit to Congress.
- The Museum has established ties with other museums in the nuclear weapons complex to pursue joint concerns and projects;

Paul Danish asked if the oral histories would be accessible by the public and thus vetted for sensitive information. Steve confirmed that people providing the oral histories sign a consent/release form allowing the information to be used in a variety of forums, including videos, website, and transcripts. Steve Cunningham, a long-time Site employee, is involved in the declassification process, but there is not a specific feedback loop yet cleared for security issues. Steve stated the Museum would not promulgate the release of sensitive information.

Karen Imbierowicz asked who makes up the Museum Board. Steve explained it is an independent working Board consisting of eighteen members, including two *ex-officio* members. Board members chair committees for finance, oral histories, nominations, collections, and communications. Historian, Dorothy Ciarlo, is involved with the oral histories project. David Abelson added that Kimberly Chleboun also sits on the Museum Board to provide local government representation. He said that given the Museum's current limited funding, Kimberly has been devoting a sizeable amount of time to the Museum as an in-kind contribution from the Coalition. Lorraine Anderson noted that the Museum Board has broad representation, including people from the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center. Steve said the oral histories also include stories from activists, as well as Rocky Flats workers and regulators.

Tom Brunner said the Museum could be an exciting prospect for the future, but asked if the Museum would be funded through a different source than DOE funds for cleanup, worker issues, and long-term stewardship in order to justify the expense. Steve explained that funding is still in the air, but they do need to raise \$10-15 million in capital costs. He stated he hoped that the lions share of the capital costs would be borne by the federal government since Rocky Flats legacy is a result of federal operations. However, he also said it is important to diversify the revenue streams and not rely on just one source. Potential funding sources for seed money include individual donors and a membership campaign, contractors, federal money, and local governments. Steve added the Museum has heritage tourism potential, and he has also heard that the Secretary of Energy has discussed looking into a planning

process to get money to individual sites.

Nanette Neelan asked about operating costs and visitation and the assumptions that went into these projections. Steve deferred to the findings of the study which included an exhaustive study of demographics and conservative attendance estimates in relation to numbers seen at Los Alamos, Oakridge, and the Nevada Test Site. The formula used in the museum community included percentages of the Denver Metro area population and factored in tourism numbers, resulting in projected attendance of 88,000 to 110,000 per year, with entrance fees of approximately \$6-7 per adult and special rates for kids and seniors. Jane Utti asked about the Museum qualifying for funding through the Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), and at what tier level. Steve said the Museum has applied to the SCFD, and if the Museum actually sees the attendance projected in the study then it would qualify as Tier 2 and be potentially eligible for six figures in funding. One factor in meeting the SCFD criteria is operating for two years with public programming, and Steve is hopeful the Museum's traveling exhibit will satisfy that part of the programming requirement. He also said that qualifying as a SCFD Tier 2 facility was not factored into the operating budget.

Sam Dixon asked if the Museum is considering housing the Rocky Flats records. Steve said he had discussed this issue with the Stewardship Working Group the week prior, and he explained that although records management is not part of the Museum's core mission the door is still open for that potential. He stated the Museum is already acting as an archive for oral histories, transcripts, personal papers, artifacts, and video tapes that have already been donated. Steve acknowledged that an archival function would require enormous resources and the Museum may not be equipped to handle that type of responsibility, unless nobody else wanted to do it and the resources were provided to the Museum. He said a collection of Site documents, like existing reading rooms, have the potential for an enormous enhancement to the community forum the Museum would like to become. It would be logical to have one place for people to review documents and resources for Rocky Flats, such as the Museum. Sam said some cities would like the reading room to remain close to them, such as the reading room at the Front Range Community College, although she believes it would be great to have documents available at more than one location. Steve also suggested some documents be made available online for easiest access to the greatest number of people. David said the Coalition, as an organization, needs to identify its interests in records management, and then consider the options available to meet these interests.

David then asked Steve to address the challenges the Museum will face. Steve said fundraising will be a big issue, as well as the Museum's physical location. After receiving feedback from the community on the type of facility envisioned and reviewing possible locations in the feasibility study, the Museum Board agreed that Buildings 60/61 at Rocky Flats is the preferred site. However, the B60/61 site faces the challenge of finding a water supply. The second choice is the Wind Technology site to the north of Rocky Flats, but it also has water supply issues as well as access issues. The future Vauxmont development to the south of Rocky Flats is a distant third, but may not be available for ten to fifteen years. David said some museums start out in smaller locations and then move when money is available. Paul Danish added that the Bradbury Science museum was originally located in a small building onsite at the Los Alamos National Lab, but then moved to downtown Los Alamos later. Steve said the Bradbury museum had to move because it was sued for not telling all sides of the story, and it needed more space to do so. Lisa Morzel asked how many cold war legacy museums were already in operation, and how the Museum is coordinating with them. Steve said the facilities at Los Alamos and Oak Ridge had been in operation for three decades, and the Atomic Test Site museum will open next week. The Rocky Flats Cold War Museum's website is linked with all of them. Within the past year more facilities have been organizing through the weapons complex and with the National Park Service for a \$300,000 study reviewing cold war sites and their value for cultural heritage. Steve said there are over 50,000 buildings and \$5.3 trillion dollars invested in the nuclear arsenal complex, and it is anticipated that it may create tourism attractions much like civil war sites.

### **Round Robin**

**Broomfield** - Tom Brunner introduced members of Broomfield Council, Janel Rock and Gary Brosz, as they may be taking over Tom's position (and possibly Hank's) on the Coalition Board once he leaves. Tom also asked for a future update on the Community Radiation monitoring program (ComRad) as he heard it may be losing funding. David Abelson described how ComRad is funded through the Rocky Flats Field Office, and its purpose as a community educational program. John Rampe (DOE) stated the program is funded on a year to year basis, and the request for \$120,000 has been funded through the next fiscal year. Tom said if it is funded for the next year it may not be an issue right now, but he wanted to make it know that Broomfield appreciates the public awareness the program brings. Joe Legare (DOE) reiterated that the ComRad stations are not used for regulatory air quality monitoring, but instead are used for community education. Post-closure monitoring will involve the air monitors on the interior or perimeter of the Site. Paul Danish questioned the value of spending \$100,000 per year on a program that does not provide real information. Lorraine agreed a future discussion could review the program's value.

Hank Stovall asked if the Site had received appropriations for FY04. Joe Legare said the federal government is on a 30-day continuing resolution, and Hank asked if that means continued funding at the current level. David responded that typically funding would remain at the FY03 level, but there is nothing currently to indicate a concern for Rocky Flats funding. He will keep the Board informed.

**Boulder County** - Jane Uitti distributed a letter that Boulder County sent to USFWS September 26, 2003 clarifying their concerns regarding the proposed refuge alternative.

**City of Boulder** - Lisa Morzel said Boulder County has raised an important issue of refuge funding nationwide, favoring development of a public policy under which cold war legacy sites are treated differently than normal refuges. She suggested a discussion at a future Board meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Kristi Pollard announced she is leaving Senator Allard's office for another career opportunity, but assured the Board that Rocky Flats is still a priority for the Senator. Staff restructuring has not yet been determined. The Board expressed their thanks to Kristi for her excellent work.

Gary Kleeman (EPA) advised the Board he will be taking over for Tim Rehder temporarily while Tim is gone on his three-month detail. After November 1 Gary will be replaced by Mark Aguilar for the remainder of the detail.

### **Big Picture**

David Abelson reviewed the Big Picture. Topics scheduled for the November Board meeting include a briefing on the Industrial Area groundwater strategy and final land configuration, as well as initial discussions on the Coalition's FY04 budget and strategic plan. The Board agreed to discuss refuge issues at the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Lorraine Anderson at 10:40 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Chleboun, Program Manager*

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